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5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said playing rate indicator of said each word is changed when a syllable count of said each word increases above a threshold number of syllables.

SA
CV

1 6. (Original) A method of decreasing the playing duration of speech generated from
2 a text segment, comprising:

- 3 (a) performing a grammatical analysis of said text segment; and
4 (b) assigning a playing rate indicator to each word of said text segment based on said
5 grammatical analysis.

1 7. (Original) The method of claim 6, further comprising generating speech from said
2 text segment such that a playing rate of a generated word is according to said playing rate indicator.

1 8. (Original) The method of claim 7, further comprising decreasing the duration of
2 pauses associated with selected punctuation in said text segment.

1 9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein said grammatical analysis comprises
2 the identification of a part of speech of the words in the text segment.

1 10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein said playing rate indicator of said
2 each word is set to reflect a slow playing rate for certain parts of speech and a fast playing rate
3 for other parts of speech.

1 11. (Canceled).

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~11~~ 10, wherein a word with a
2 playing rate indicator of a slow playing rate is omitted from the generated speech.

1 13. (Original) A method of decreasing the playing duration of speech generated from
2 a text segment, comprising:

- 3 (a) comparing each word of said text segment to an inventory of pre-selected words; and
4 (b) assigning a playing rate indicator to said each word of said text segment based on
5 said comparison.

1 14. (Original) The method of claim 13, further comprising generating speech from
2 said text segment such that a playing rate of a generated word is according to said playing rate
3 indicator.

1 15. (Original) The method of claim 14, further comprising decreasing the duration
2 of pauses associated with selected punctuation in said text segment.

1 16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein each said playing rate indicator of
2 each word is set to reflect a slow playing rate when said each word matches an entry in said
3 inventory.

1 17. (Original) The method of claim 16, further comprising omitting from the
2 generated speech a word with a playing rate indicator indicative of a slow playing rate.

- 1 18. (Original) A computing device comprising:
- 2 (a) a processor;
- 3 (b) persistent storage memory in communication with said processor, storing processor
- 4 readable instructions adapting said device to:
- 5 (i) receive a text segment;
- 6 (ii) count syllables in each word of said text segment; and
- 7 (iii) assign a playing rate indicator to said each word of said text segment based
- 8 on a total number of syllables in said word.

- 1 19. (Previously Amended) The computing device of claim 18, wherein said
- 2 process readable instructions further adapt said device to:
- 3 (iv) generate speech from said text segment such that a playing rate of a generated word
- 4 is according to said playing rate indicator.

- 1 20. (Currently Amended) A computing device comprising:
- 2 (a) a processor;
- 3 (b) persistent storage memory in communication with said processor, storing processor
- 4 readable instructions adapting said device to:
- 5 (i) receive a text segment;
- 6 (ii) perform a grammatical analysis of said text segment; and
- 7 *b1* (iii) assign a playing rate indicator to ~~said~~ each word of said text segment based
- 8 on said grammatical analysis.

- 1 21. (Previously Amended) The computing device of claim 20, wherein said
- 2 process readable instructions further adapt said device to:
- 3 (iv) generate speech from said text segment such that a playing rate of a generated word
- 4 is according to said playing rate indicator.

- 1 22. (Original) A computing device comprising:
- 2 (a) a processor;
- 3 (b) persistent storage memory in communication with said processor, storing processor
- 4 readable instructions adapting said device to:
- 5 (i) receive a text segment;
- 6 (ii) compare each word of said text segment to an inventory of pre-selected
- 7 words; and
- 8 (iii) assign a playing rate indicator to said each word of said text segment based
- 9 on said comparison.

- 1 23. (Previously Amended) The computing device of claim 22, wherein said
- 2 process readable instructions further adapt said device to:
- 3 (iv) generate speech from said text segment such that a playing rate of a generated word
- 4 is according to said playing rate indicator.

5 24. (Original) A computer readable medium storing computer software that, when
6 loaded into a computing device, adapts said device to:

- 7 (a) receive a text segment;
- 8 (b) count syllables in each word of said text segment; and
- 9 (c) assign a playing rate indicator to said each word of said text segment based on a total
10 number of syllables in said word.

1 25. (Previously Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 24, wherein
2 said computer software further adapts said device to:

- 3 (d) generate speech from said text segment such that a playing rate of a generated word
4 is according to said playing rate indicator.

1 26. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium storing computer software that,
2 when loaded into a computing device, adapts said device to:

- 3 (a) receive a text segment;
4 (b) perform a grammatical analysis of said text segment; and
5 (c) assign a playing rate indicator to ~~said~~ each word of said text segment based on said
6 grammatical analysis.

1 27. (Previously Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 26, wherein
2 said computer software further adapts said device to:

- 3 (d) generate speech from said text segment such that a playing rate of a generated word
4 is according to said playing rate indicator.

1 28. (Original) A computer readable medium storing computer software that, when
2 loaded into a computing device, adapts said device to:

- 3 (a) receive a text segment;
4 (b) compare each word of said text segment to an inventory of pre-selected words; and
5 (c) assign a playing rate indicator to said each word of said text segment based on said
6 comparison.

1 29. (Previously Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 28, wherein
2 said computer software further adapts said device to:

- 3 (d) generate speech from said text segment such that a playing rate of a generated
4 word is according to said playing rate indicator.

5 30. (New) The computing device of claim 18, wherein said process readable instructions
6 further adapt said device to:

7 increase said playing rate of a given generated word when the playing rate indicator of said
8 word is indicative of a higher number of syllables and slowed where the playing rate indicator of said
9 word is indicative of a lower number of syllables.